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Selling Communists the rope

ARNOLD BEICHMAN

Former Treasury Secretary William Simon once said that the existence of the Soviet Union is really a triumph of capitalism, not socialism. How's that? Because without capitalist loans and other forms of economic aid, without capitalist technology, the U.S.S.R. would have had great difficulty in maintaining whatever kind of economy they do have.

Lenin realized the need for capitalist assistance, which is why he welcomed men like Julius Hammer and his son, the ubiquitous Armand Hammer, and the Harrimans, among others, to help him build up the revolution-ravaged country. Lenin was supposedly asked in the early 1920s by Soviet journalist Karl Radek who would supply the money to build Bolshevik Russia.

The capitalists, Lenin is said to have replied, will sell us the rope with which we will hang them. Or, another even more cynical version has Lenin sneering that when the last capitalists are being hung on the gallows by the Bolsheviks, there will be two capitalists haggling over the price of hemp.

Whether Lenin said it or not, he and his successors certainly practiced what they knew best: how to appeal to the profit motive of Western capitalism for help in financing not only the aftermath of the Bolshevik revolution but also later Soviet wars of "national liberation" and for propping up the tottering economies of the Soviet satellites with Western loans which will never be repaid.

But there're no hard feelings among the bankers. When Gen. Wojciech Jaruzelski, the Soviet-ordained spokesman for the Polish proletariat, came to the U.N. General Assembly a few weeks ago, he got a free lunch from David Rockefeller. Try to get a free lunch from David Rockefeller if you are an ordinary bourgeois Chase Manhattan loan defaulter.

(It is a measure of the moral state of the banking profession that while Mr. Rockefeller was lunching with Gen. Jaruzelski, a few blocks away AFL-CIO President Lane Kirkland was describing the Polish Communist dictator as a man "with blood on his hands." Mr. Kirkland was addressing a New York City rally against Gen. Jaruzelski on behalf of

the Polish labor union, Solidarity.)

We're now getting a dose of selling Communists the rope in Angola. Good old Chase Manhattan, reports *The Wall Street Journal*, is "a willing lender" of our bank deposits to Angola's Marxist-Leninist government. Chevron, Texaco, the French Elf Aquitaine are searching for oil. Conoco, Chevron's subsidiary, is launching an agricultural project. General Tire operates a manufacturing plant. A British company tied in with the De Beers consortium manages the Angola diamond mines, which of course helps the South African economy. (Has anybody noted that the Soviet Union still sells its diamonds through De Beers and that nobody, but nobody, complains about Mikhail Gorbachev helping Pretoria; how about a picket line at the Soviet Embassy demanding Moscow's divestiture from De Beers?) Arthur D. Little & Co. is financial consultant to the Angola regime and runs courses for Angolan trainees.

According to the *Journal*, the U.S. Export-Import Bank has "loaned" \$230 million to Angola, which is "Ex-Im Bank's largest exposure in sub-Saharan Africa." The chief ideologue in the Angola Politburo is Lucio Lara, who says that theirs is a "Marxist-Leninist party in ideology." But, says Senhor Lara, when it is a matter of dealing with the capitalists, "It is a question of business. They are business companies and they are very correct with us." Give that man the Order of Lenin — Lenin couldn't have said it any better.

But the day will come, when and if the anti-Communist forces of Jonas Savimbi are finally crushed by the combined Soviet-Cuban military forces while the United States government looks on, that the Angolan Bolsheviks will expropriate all these foreign, reactionary, running dogs of imperialism, in keeping with the principles of Marxism-Leninism.

In the meantime, the West, in the spirit of peaceful coexistence, supplies the economic takeoff investment for Angolan communism, while Soviet military aircraft fly from Angolan airfields and Soviet naval vessels move in and out of Angolan ports, and while Cubans,

East Germans, and Soviet KGB officers run courses for Angolan espionage trainees. And to top it off, the Angolan regime voted Nov. 13 against a U.N. resolution calling for (but not by name) a Soviet pullout from Afghanistan. Angola didn't even abstain or absent itself from the General Assembly but was right in there to vote with Cuba, Ethiopia, Libya, Syria, and, of course, the Soviet Union and its East European satellites.

It's Lenin's division of labor in full flower in Angola: we supply the money, technology, and know-how; Angola supplies the oil. We build the economy, the Soviets run the polity. Marx had a silly idea that economics dominates politics, but Lenin and his disciples knew better; they knew that totalitarian politics dominates everything. The day will come — unless we help Mr. Savimbi and his forces — when Angolan communism, having triumphed, will trumpet the discovery of a big CIA plot in Angola by Western capitalism.

Angola will default on its debts to Chase Manhattan, and no matter which Angolan Communist comes to the U.N., he'll get a free lunch from David Rockefeller.

You see, bankers are a forgiving bunch — with our money.

Arnold Beichman is a visiting scholar at the Hoover Institution.